

military equipment to Japan. After all, the national security and our security arrangements with Japan in Asia were often cited as the reasons to forgive Japan of any war reparations.

I hope that my colleagues would support H.R. 2041, the Guam War Restitution Act. I hope that we can put closure to this issue. I noted that much publicity was given to the Japanese apology for World War II. Who will apologize for the mishandling of Guam war reparations? Who in Congress will take responsibility for the Treaty with Japan signing away Guam's rights, and who in Congress will apologize for the oversight in not including Guam in war claims legislation in the past? Who now will stand up for what is right and do what is right for the American citizens of Guam who endured a brutal occupation?

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, despite liberal attempts to hide the truth, the word is out.

The American people have learned that our precious Medicare system is going broke.

It is clear that unless important actions are taken, Medicare will be belly-up in the year 2002.

We are not going to let that happen.

We are going to save Medicare and strengthen it—giving our seniors more options and more choices.

One option we should give seniors is a Medical Savings Account.

A Medicare MSA would allow seniors to join a private health plan that would pay all expenses above a set level, and allow seniors to deposit their Medicare dollars in a personal medical savings account to be used to pay expenses below that level.

At the end of the year, seniors choosing this option could withdraw any unspent money left in the MSA or buy insurance coverage for prescription drugs or allow the money to grow with interest to pay future medical bills. It is their choice.

Let us hope the liberals choose to abandon their Medi-scare tactics and join us in saving Medicare by giving seniors more choices like Medical Savings Accounts.

NUCLEAR BOMBING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, about 150 years ago, by show of military force with guns, bullets and cannons, the Government of France incorporated into a colony a group of Polynesian islands currently known as French Polynesia, with its current capital in the town of Papeete and the main island called the island of Tahiti.

Mr. Speaker, these Polynesian islands were popularized by the famous historical novel that was written by Mr. Hall and Mr. Nordoff in the early 1930's, and later, a couple of very famous films were based on this novel. They are currently known as the Mutiny on the Bounty. As you well know, it was a historical fact that a British Naval captain by the name of Captain Bly was assigned to go to these islands in the South Pacific to bring back a certain fruit called the bread fruit so that it could be transferred to the Caribbean to feed the slaves, as it was part of the British empire at that time.

Mr. Speaker, these islands are currently in tremendous turmoil, as has been witnessed by the American people and throughout the world, of what has happened in the eve of the recent decision made by President Chirac in June that the Government of France was going to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific. And the proposed plan by President Chirac was that for the 8-month period, once each month the Government of France was going to explode one nuclear bomb each up to the equivalent of 10 times the power of the bomb that we dropped in Hiroshima 50 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am sad to say that this new testing program began a couple of days ago and as a result of that, riots broke out in the city of Papeete. The main airport was closed and the island of Tahiti was at a standstill.

Now the tremendous uproar, Mr. Speaker. Everybody is pointing fingers at everybody. President Chirac recently, by the media, is pointing fingers at Australia and New Zealand and other countries for causing all these riots to occur. New Zealand and Australia are saying, no, Mr. Chirac, you are to blame for this thing that has happened now to the people of Papeete and the French Polynesians.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the American people are aware of the fact that this is the same situation that occurred in the early 1960's when our Government also exploded some of the most powerful nuclear bombs the world has ever witnessed in the islands of Micronesia.

I recall in 1954 we exploded what was known as the bravo shot, in which we exploded the first hydrogen bomb that was 50 megatons, and let me explain this to the American people and to my colleagues. The power of this bomb that we exploded on the island of Bikini was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb that we dropped in Hiro-

shima. As a result of that bomb, 300 men, women and children on the islands of Rongelap and Utirik just playing on the ocean floor, not even knowing exactly what was happening, and the sad part of this legacy and the story in our own country, Mr. Speaker, our officials knew that the winds had shifted but they did not stop the detonation of that bomb. And as a result of that, as a result of that, these people were directly impacted by nuclear contamination because of what we did to them.

Mr. Speaker, to this day, these people are still suffering, still suffering from radioactive contamination, having the highest rates of cancer, leukemia. You can call it what you may, but these people are still suffering and no amount of money our Government could ever give these people will bring them back to normal health.

Mr. Speaker, this is the same problem the people of the Pacific have been fighting for years, and by our own admission, by our own admission, in 1963 we said, hey, we better not do this any more, it is hurting the environment. We conducted some serious atmospheric tests in Micronesia, underground, on the ground, under the reefs. We have done it and we found out that ecologically it was not suitable, and this is the reason why we did these tests now underground in the State of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, we advised our friends from France, you cannot do this in the atolls of these islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is not a stagnant pool. It is an ocean that constantly moves, like what we call the Humboldt Current, and by doing this, our good friend, President DeGaulle, said, no, we are going to do it.

So for the past 20 years, the Government of France has exploded over 240 nuclear bombs on these islands in French Polynesia, mainly on these two atolls known as the Moruroa and the Fangataufa atolls.

Mr. Speaker, on Moruroa atoll, the Government of France has exploded over 163 nuclear bombs; and 8 more nuclear bombs, Mr. Speaker, that atoll is going to collapse, and when that contamination comes out of that atoll, it is not just the 200,000 French Polynesians that are going to be affected by it, but the whole Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, somehow we have taken a very passive view of the seriousness of the situation, and Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues and the American people, something has got to be done. President Chirac has got to get the message. What he is doing is wrong. It is morally wrong and it is time that we stop this madness.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS) at 12 noon.

□ 1200

PRAYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Office of the Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them meat in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Almighty God, the psalmist's recognition of his dependence upon You reminds us all of our constant need for Your grace and mercy.

So, we pray to You, O God, for daily bread and that all our needs will be met by Your gracious care.

We pray to You, O God, for health of body and strength of mind, so that all our efforts will serve Your will and thereby give aid to our neighbor who is in want.

We pray to You, O God, that the work of our hands and the decisions we render will make life better for those around us and for whom we must take some responsibility.

We pray to You, O God, that we will allow our souls to be fed by Your grace, so that we will always be more caring toward another's misfortune than accepting of glory for our own accomplishments.

And, we pray, that we may always live and demonstrate Your mercy in our family, in our workplace, and in our community, and in our Nation.

Indeed, the eyes of us all look to You, O Lord. Give us, we pray, our food in due season. Open Your hand, and satisfy our needs. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. SHAYS). The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KENNELLY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment, in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2126. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2126) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. HARKIN, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. BREAUX, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Mr. INOUE, at large, to the Board of Visitors of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

DEATH OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JAMIE WHITTEN

(Mr. BEVILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Democratic leadership and the Mississippi congressional delegation, it is my sad duty to report the death of our former colleague, Jamie Whitten, on Saturday in Oxford, Mississippi.

As you know, Jamie was the dean of the House of Representatives until his retirement last year, after 53 years in the House. He had the longest record of service of any Member in the history of our country.

Jamie served as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee for 13 years and as chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for more than 40 years. He had a tremendous influence on the Nation's agricultural policy and was known as the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture.

He was sitting in this Chamber when President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his "Day of Infamy" speech following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. For more than half a century, Jamie faithfully and effectively served his Mississippi constituents and his country. His record was a remarkable achievement which will probably never be broken.

Jamie and his wife Rebecca were totally dedicated to public service and

especially devoted to their beloved home State of Mississippi. Our Nation has lost one of its most loyal and effective leaders, but Jamie's contributions will always be remembered.

IN HONOR OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JAMIE WHITTEN

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I too join with our colleagues on the Democrat side of the aisle on behalf of Republicans in the House to mourn the death of our good friend, Jamie Whitten.

Mr. Speaker, Jamie did serve in the House for some 53 years and was an example to all of the Members of this House on both sides of the aisle about how to be a statesman. His influence in agricultural policy over those 53 years was, without question, substantial. And without question, for 53 years, Mr. Whitten had the most influence over agricultural policy in this country. Today, we mourn his death and say prayers for him and his family.

SUPPORT STUDENT AID, SUPPORT OUR FUTURE

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, education of our young people of America is the best chance for a bright future for our great Nation. However, in these tough economic times many families cannot afford to send their children to postsecondary school. The rising cost of education and proposals to cut funding for students loans will only close the doors of colleges and universities to many fine young people indeed.

The current proposal to eliminate the in-school interest subsidy for Stafford Loans is a dramatic turn in education policy. Last year alone over four million students benefited from in-school interest subsidies. This interest subsidy is essential to ensuring choice and access for higher education. The main goal of the Higher Education Act of 1965 was to reduce financial barriers to access and choice in postsecondary education. Subsidized loans have always had a role in achieving this goal.

Money should not be the determining factor for who attends colleges and universities. Let's support student aid, let's support our future.

JUDGE ITO: MOST OUT OF TOUCH JUDICIAL BUREAUCRAT

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the O.J. Simpson trial,